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AmoÃ©ba and Koppert expand biofungicide partnership to orchards across 19 European countries

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The companies will develop AXPERA-based biological disease control solutions for fruit growers, following field trials reporting more than 90 per cent efficacy against apple scab and powdery mildew in combined treatment programmes.



French biotechnology company Amoéba and biological crop protection specialist Koppert have expanded their distribution partnership to include orchard crops across 19 European Union countries, strengthening their collaboration in the development and commercialisation of biological fungicides. Announced on 16 November 2026, the agreement extends the application of Amoéba's AXPERA technology beyond vineyards and vegetable production into fruit crops, including apples, pears, apricots and quinces.

The companies plan to develop a dedicated orchard biofungicide, with a potential commercial launch in 2029, subject to regulatory approvals and further field evaluations. The partnership targets a European orchard market covering approximately 600,000 hectares, including around 320,000 hectares of apple orchards and 80,000 hectares of pear orchards.

Field trials report promising disease control

The expanded agreement follows preliminary field trials conducted by Amoéba and Koppert during the summer of 2026 in apple orchards across five European countries. The evaluations focused on apple scab and powdery mildew, two economically important fungal diseases affecting fruit production and quality.

According to the companies, treatment programmes combining AXPERA-based technology with conventional fungicides demonstrated efficacy exceeding 90 per cent against both diseases. The results provide an initial basis for further development, although the companies have not disclosed detailed comparative performance data or the contribution of

individual products within the treatment programmes.

A second trial campaign is planned for 2027 to confirm the initial findings and assess additional disease management programmes involving apple and pear crops. The research will help determine how the biological formulation can be integrated into existing orchard protection strategies.

Partnership expands beyond vineyards and vegetables

Amoéba and Koppert established their initial commercial partnership in June 2025, covering biological disease management in vineyards and vegetable crops. In July 2026, the companies extended that agreement through June 2031, reinforcing their long-term cooperation in biological crop protection. The latest expansion follows the commercial introduction of TIAGAN for vineyards and YAZU for vegetable crops, both developed using Amoéba's technology.

The new agreement extends the collaboration to additional fruit crops, including nashi pears, crab apples and medlars. It covers 19 European Union countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Poland.

Martin Koppert, Chief Product Officer at Koppert, said the expansion addresses the need for additional biological disease management options as European fruit growers face increasing disease pressure and restrictions on conventional crop protection products. The companies intend to position the orchard formulation as a complementary tool within integrated crop protection programmes.

Orchard market offers commercial growth potential

According to Amoéba, European fruit producers typically spend between €1,000 and €1,500 per hectare annually on fungal disease management. The company estimates that fruit production represents approximately 10 per cent of Europe's fungicide market by value, creating an additional commercial opportunity for biological alternatives.

Amoéba aims to use its partnership with Koppert to expand the application of AXPERA technology across high-value agricultural crops. Jean-Marc Petat, Managing Director of Amoéba's biosolutions subsidiary Green for Agro, said the orchard agreement represents a further milestone in the company's efforts to broaden the commercial applications of its biological crop protection technology. The expansion also supports Amoéba's longer-term objective of reaching €40 million in annual revenue by 2030, although the target remains subject to commercial development and market adoption.

Commercial launch targeted for 2029

Amoéba and Koppert will continue evaluating the orchard formulation before proceeding towards commercial introduction. The 2027 trial programme is expected to provide additional information on disease control, treatment integration and performance under different growing conditions.

The companies are targeting a commercial launch in 2029, provided the necessary regulatory authorisations are obtained. The development reflects growing interest in biological fungicides as European fruit growers seek additional approaches to disease management and integrated crop protection. While early trial results are encouraging, broader commercial adoption will depend on further efficacy testing, regulatory approvals and the formulation's performance under practical orchard conditions.